



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN SAVED BY AMBER ALERTS**

(Sacramento) The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will observe the 2007 National AMBER Alert Awareness Day on Saturday, January 13. The CHP is responsible for statewide coordination of AMBER ALERT and the other emergency response activities associated with a child abduction.

“A missing child is every parent’s worst nightmare,” said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown. “A quick response is vital, every second counts when a child is abducted.”

California’s AMBER Alert program, the California Child Safety AMBER Network, is coordinated by the CHP. The program was created in 2002 as a result of legislation by Senator George Runner, who at the time was an Assemblymember. His bill, AB 415, established strict criteria for an AMBER Alert and made it mandatory for agencies to activate one if the case met the criteria. Since its inception, there have been 100 AMBER Alert activations by the CHP, resulting in the safe recovery of 127 children.

In 2006, there were 14 AMBER Alerts in California, resulting in the safe recovery of 15 children.

California will celebrate the five-year anniversary of its successful AMBER Alert program this summer. “This is one of the most successful programs we’ve seen in state government,” said Brown. “It shows a true partnership between law enforcement, media, transportation and the public.”

AMBER Alert systems have been established in all 50 states. On a national level, Amber Alert has been responsible for hundreds of successful recoveries of abducted children.

The AMBER Alert Program originated in Texas in 1996 after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was abducted and murdered. Texas organized a system that encouraged law enforcement agencies to alert the media following a confirmed child abduction.

The CHP encourages parents and children to make their best effort to become educated against the danger of abduction and ways to prevent an abduction. For more on AMBER Alert in California and safety information to protect your family visit the CHP’s website at

[www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov).

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